

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702**

**Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil**

**May 7, 2008
PAO 05-07-08**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Schnieder and Anderson named NG Officers of the Year

HURON, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard's top lieutenant and warrant officer were named at the annual conference of the National Guard Officer's Association held April 25-26 at the Crossroads Hotel and Convention Center in Huron.

Second Lt. Patrick J. Schnieder, of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Maintenance Squadron, received the prestigious "Lt. Col. John J. Steele Award" and Chief Warrant Officer Brett Anderson of Joint Force Headquarters was awarded the "CW4 Michael F. O'Conner Award."

Schnieder is currently the maintenance officer for the Equipment Maintenance Flight where he is responsible for munitions storage, aerospace ground equipment, non-destructive inspection, fabrication and phase maintenance.

"I was quite surprised when I was chosen to receive this award," said Schnieder. "There were other nominees I felt were more deserving of this award, considering what they have accomplished coupled with spending a year deployed overseas, but nonetheless I am honored to receive it."

Schnieder joined the Army in 1986 and served with the 18th Airborne Corps in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He joined the S.D. Air National Guard in 1991 and participated in numerous deployments such as Operations Southern/Northern Watch. He also volunteered his time to help the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program and personally spoke to more than 7,000 school age children at various speaking engagements.

"A lieutenant from the Air Guard has only won this honor seven or eight times for as long as they have been awarding it," said Schnieder. "It feels good to bring it back to the Air side of the house."

Schnieder lives in Marshall, Minn., where he is the director of safety at Midwest Aviation/Charter First and has been employed there as a charter pilot and maintenance technician since 1994.

Selected as “Warrant Officer of the Year,” Chief Warrant Officer Brett Anderson of Rapid City, has served in the military for 19 years.

“I am humbled that my unit leadership chose me over so many other strong leaders within our Warrant Officer Corps,” said Anderson. “They had had so many choices, but instead they picked me.”

Anderson joined the National Guard during his senior year at Riggs High School in Pierre in 1989. Two years later, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served as an artilleryman with the 1st Battalion, Second Marine Division. During his four-year tour, Anderson served in support of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1993.

Returning in 1995, he rejoined the 147th Field Artillery Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, and began working full-time for the Guard in 1997. Chief Anderson is currently serving as the property management officer for the United States Property and Fiscal Office at Camp Rapid.

“The time I spent on active duty gave me the basic tools I needed to be successful in the National Guard,” he said. “But the Guard has allowed me to develop into a well-rounded leader and really taught me how to work with people on a more personal level.”

Anderson is the only Warrant Officer Candidate School instructor currently teaching the new Fort Meade based program. He began the first resident phase of the program in April with about 19 new candidates; four from North Dakota and the rest from South Dakota.

“I am constantly challenging myself,” said Anderson. “I hope to instill this attitude in the warrant officer candidates.”

-30-

Photo Cut Lines:

Schnieder: Second Lt. Patrick J. Schnieder, of the Air Guard’s 114th Maintenance Squadron, received the prestigious “Lt. Col. John J. Steele Award” at the annual conference of the National Guard Officer’s Association held April 25-26 at the Crossroads Hotel and Convention Center in Huron. (National Guard photo)(Released)

Link to Photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/Schnieder.jpg>

Anderson: Chief Warrant Officer Brett Anderson was awarded the “CW4 Michael F. O’Conner Award” at the annual conference of the National Guard Officer’s Association held April 25-26 at the Crossroads Hotel and Convention Center in Huron. (National Guard photo)(Released)

Link to Photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/Anderson.jpg>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.

NOTE: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 730 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 250 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia. More than 4,000 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.